
Title: An Ancient Journey

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Chapter 1, Hajimari
In the beginning, the
heavens and the earth
were one. The sky was of
angry black clouds and
the sea was nothing more
than a seething, murky
swamp. Life as we know
it did not exist. Then one
day the clouds began to
swirl and grow, thunder
crashed and a terrible
rain began to fall. It
rained night and day for
weeks and months, as if
it had done so forever.
At last the rain stopped,
and the heavens and the
earth had separated.
From the waters and the
mud the gods began to
appear, like young shoots
of grass springing forth
from the east. This is
how the world began.

Chapter 2, Sozo - The
Birth of a Land

The last of the gods to
rise up from the chaos
were Izanagi and the
goddess Izanami. From the
Bridge of Rainbows in
Takamagahara, far above
where the other gods
live, they stirred the sea
with a spear. When they
withdrew the spear, the
drops of mud that fell
from it created a most
beautiful group of islands.

Izanagi and Izanami went
to live in the land, and
were married. There,
Izanami gave birth to
many gods including those
of the wind, the sea, the
mountains and the earth.

Chapter 3, Koi - Love and The Death of Izanami

The last god to be born
was the god of fire,
after which Izanami died.
Her death caused her son
Mikoto, the god of the
night, terrible pain and
grief. At last his father,
Izanagi, disturbed at his
son's weakness, expelled
him from the land of the
gods. After much
wandering, Mikoto, found
himself in a village
terrorized by the
Eight-Headed Dragon and
where the beautiful
maiden Kushinadahime lived.
It is here that Mikoto
first discovered love.

Chapter 4, Orochi - The Eight-Headed Dragon

The Dragon was a
terrible creature with
eyes as red as Chinese
lanterns. It had eight
giant heads and tails long
enough to span eight
mountains and valleys. The
monster dragon had
already destroyed the
village and devoured
Kushinadahime's seven
sisters, and it was
feared he would soon
return to claim the fair
maiden. Using all of his
cunning and strength
Mikoto defeated the
monster in a long and
brutal battle.

Chapter 5, Nageki - Sorrow in a World of

Darkness

After Mikoto was thrown out of the land of the gods, his sister Hikaru, goddess of the sun, took pity on him and invited him to come live with her in Takamagahara. Mikoto was happy to do so, but his mischief soon caused Hikaru much grief. Hikaru fell into great despair and went to hide in the Celestial Rock Cave, plunging the world into total darkness. For this, Mikoto was thrown out of Takamagahara.

Chapter 6, Matsuri - The Festival

Mikoto prayed and prayed to his father Izanagi to get Hikaru to come out from the cave. Meanwhile, some of the other gods gathered around the cave to sing and dance in a happy and joyous festival. Hikaru, thinking it strange that people were holding a festival in a dark and cold world, opened the stone gate before the cave to see what was happening. Just then Tajikarao, the god of strength, pushed away the stone and pulled Hikaru from the cave. The festival had been nothing but a trick.

Chapter 7, Reimei - The New Dawn

As Hikaru came out from the cave, her light shone brilliantly in Takamagahara and throughout all the lands. Flowers began to bloom, birds began to sing and peace returned. With Hikaru's blessing, Mikoto and Kushinadahime were

married and lived happily
ever after. It was the
beginning of a new dawn
in Yamato (Japan).
Message of Sound

I send a Message of
Sound
Towards the sky
Engulfing empty space
Souring far beyond grasp
High above mountain tops
Beyond ocean waves
Stretching to reach the
Andes
And lightly touching Nepal
Watch as the sounds
flow
Listen as you feel the
wind blow
Nature is colored with
romance
Unfolding a drama day by
day
Plants breathe a rhythm
Insects play their melody
Light flies as wind cries
Now catch the sound . .
. feel the light
By feeling things which
are with life
Innocents respond to the
delicate sigh
Of the world, weaving
their own dreams
Dreams which spread
throughout the world
People begin to sing
harmonies of love,
wordless
This is a beginning
Connecting the dream
To the color of your
breathless heart
Peace and tranquility, you
need only to sing
It is for you.

The Great Spirit

All living things come
Face to face with the
Great Spirit
And the Great Spirit
dwells
Within all living things
Tree
Flower

Water
Wind
All things
At times the Great
Spirit is severe
At times the Great
Spirit is soothing
Encompassing all life
Everyplace the Great
Spirit dwells
Is the source of a gentle
crystalline light
And within that light
we become One
Floating as if in our
mother's warm body
Living together as
children
Of the earth
Without time
Without end..
THE MESSENGER

One came upon him not
too late
Just in time to meditate.
Immersed in angelic
harmonies
Of the spheres.
Realizing this Heaven and
Earth
Must be shared
With the souls of
spiritual children
everywhere
MAGICAL MEETING PLACE
The World Came to me, I
greeted the World
And the World allowed me
to feel its pulse
Likened to a manifestation
of fluttering butterflies,
Some would land and
linger
To be caressed in their
full beauty
And then released
Unharm'd to continue
their Sacred Journey.
Our purpose fulfilled...
for now.
“Whatever joy there is
in this world all comes
from desiring others to
be happy, and whatever
suffering there is in this
world all comes from
desiring myself to be

happy.” (Shantideva.
Buddhist Monk at Nalanda
University in the 7th/8th
century)